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# WORLD NEWS

## S. Korea's Roh, Opposition Meet For First Time

By Peter Maass  
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SEOUL, May 28—South Korean President Roh Tae Woo and the country's three main opposition leaders agreed at their first face-to-face meeting today that only the government should conduct reunification discussions with communist North Korea.

The agreement on the sensitive issue, which has been the focus of intense debate and protest in Seoul, came during a long and apparently productive summit between Roh and "the three Kims" of the opposition—leftist Kim Dae Jung, centrist Kim Young Sam and maverick conservative Kim Jong Pil. The four-hour talk was their first meeting since Roh was elected in December and took place just a month after the opposition won a majority in the National Assembly.

There were no reported breakthroughs, but the meeting at the presidential palace appeared to be aimed at getting next week's National Assembly opening off to a good start.

For the first time in the country's history, the opposition will control the legislature, and analysts say that with the Summer Olympics beginning in just over three months here, friction between Roh and the Kims, as well as among the Kims themselves, could create an unwelcome dose of political turbulence at a crucial time.

The meeting began with smiles and ended with positive words by the four men. Kim Dae Jung, viewed as the opposition's harshest government critic, told a news conference after the talks, "I came to understand what the president



South Korean President Roh Tae Woo, right, greets opposition leader Kim Dae Jung before the talks.

has in mind, and I expect that politics will be done smoothly through dialogue." Presidential spokesman Lee Soo Jung told reporters, "The president and the three opposition leaders were all content with their meeting and agreed to meet often in the future."

Despite apparent agreement on the importance of staging a successful Olympics and the potentially negative impact of violent student protests during the Games, Roh and the Kims were said to remain at odds over several key issues facing the country.

Roh reportedly called on the three Kims to limit parliamentary probes into past government corruption and into the 1980 Kwangju uprising, in which the opposition claims that as many as 2,000 people may have been killed.

According to spokesman Lee, Roh warned that the probes could divide the nation and insisted that former president Chun Doo Hwan be

exempt from punishment. Roh also said the scope of a proposed political amnesty should be limited in the interests of national security. Kim Dae Jung reportedly disagreed, arguing for a release of all prisoners of conscience except those clearly sympathetic to North Korea.

But on the key issue of reunification, the four men reportedly agreed that the government should be the sole representative of South Koreans in contacts with North Korea. Radical student and dissident groups have proposed in recent weeks to set up independent channels of communication with Pyongyang to try to thaw the frozen contacts between North and South.

The radical students and dissidents, who support North Korea's call for cohosting the Olympics, represent a new challenge to the government on the reunification issue. They also risk inflaming anti-American sentiments in South Korea, which have broadened in recent weeks.